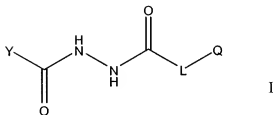


AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A compound having the formula I



wherein

Y is a residue of a macromolecule;

Q is a SH group, or is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₂₄ alkyl halide, C₁₋₂₄ alkoxy-C₁₋₂₄ alkyl, α -halocarbonyl, maleimides, vinyl sulfones, acrylonitriles, α -methylene esters, quinine methides, acryloyl esters, acryloyl amide, α -halo esters and α -halo amides or a thiol-reactive electrophilic functional group; and

L is a polyalkylene group, a polyether group, a polyamide group, a polyimino group, an aryl group, a polyester, or a polythioether group,

wherein when Q is a thiol group, Y is not a residue of hyaluronan.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the macromolecule comprises an oligonucleotide, a nucleic acid or a metabolically stabilized analogue thereof, a polypeptide, a lipid, a glycoprotein, a glycolipid, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable compound.
3. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the macromolecule comprises a polysaccharide, a protein, or a synthetic polymer.

Claims 4- 6 (Withdrawn)

7. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the macromolecule comprises a protein, and the protein comprises a naturally-occurring protein or a recombinant protein.

8. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein the macromolecule comprises a protein, and the protein comprises an extracellular matrix protein, a chemically-modified extracellular matrix protein, or a partially hydrolyzed derivative of an extracellular matrix protein.

9. (Original) The compound of claim 8, wherein the protein comprises collagen, elastin, decorin, laminin, or fibronectin.

Claims 10-12 (Withdrawn)

13. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein L is CH_2CH_2 or $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$.

14. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein Y is a residue of a protein or polysaccharide, Q is a thiol, and L is CH_2CH_2 or $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$.

Claims 15-115 (Withdrawn)